SCOURGE SWEEPS ALASKA.

DISEASE AND STARVATION MATING THE NATIVES.

Few of Them Will Survive the Winter Unless Rellef Comes Promptly-Government Officials and Others Report a Frightful Condition of Affairs-Whites Seemingly Immune

ST. MICHAEL, Alaska, Oct. 20.-A scourge of sickness and death such as never before was known in Alaska has attacked the Esquimaux population throughout the western and central parts of the territory this year Tales incredible to one who has not been a personal witness could be told of the awful havoc wrought by disease during the pass summer. The white man, of whom there naver were so many before in Alaska, has escaped, and even the congested and exposed settlement at Nome where thousands of miners and adventurers were congregated was miraculously saved from an epidemic. But the native, who is always the friend of the whites, for whom he has suffered in a variety of ways since civilization approached his shores, has been stricken as never before. In some native villages, one half of the population has died of disease and starvation. Those who escaped death did so only after severe illness and privation. Being sick, the natives have been unable to engage in their summer occustion of fishing, and the outlook for the winter as gloomy as the long Arctic night.

All the Government officers in Alaska and all the captains of merchant and tramp vessels that have called at this port since spring have told almost incredible stories of the suffering among the Esquimaux. The worst was up the Yukon, among the river natives. Capt Cantwell, commanding the revenue Nunivak, which wintered in the Dall River, a northern branch of the main stream just below the Arctic circle, and has patrolling the Yukon all summer, took on board here early in the season twenty tons of relief supplies, and these were distributed among the sick and starving natives at the villages on the river. The twenty tons formed only a drop in the bucket. The necessity was far greater than the Government realized.

The Esquimaux in other parts of Alaska suffered severely. The epidemic extended throughout the western peninsula along the coast as far north as Cape Lisburne in the Arctic Ocean, and attacked the natives in the Islands of Behring Sea and even on the coast of Siberia, opposite the Seward Peninsula few points on the Siberian coast visited by ships this summer the sickness among the conditions were found at Little King's Island, a rock rising suddenly out of the middle of Behring Sea, and famed as the home of the only cliff-dwelling people in this part of the world. On the occasion of our visit all the natives, including the sick, had left the island temporarily, with the evident purpose of trading with white men on the mainland. Only two or three of their little walrus-skin kyaks and their dogs remained behind.

The whole population of King's Island i. comething like two hundred. Yet we found the bodies of thirty-eight dead men, womeand children lying about the doors and on the roofs of the cliff houses. Apparently there were not enough well persons in the community to carry the dead to the burying ground that could be seen a hundred feet higher up on the ciiff. It need not be considered singular that the surviving inhabitants, even those who were sick, had gone or been carried away to the mainland in their boats, for an Esquimau is notoriously careless of his physical wellbeing. The well wished to go to the mainland so the sick were taken along with them and this incident is thoroughly characterstic of the customs of the Esquimaux. Attempts have been made to convey the

idea that the natives of Alaska have been suffering this year from a mysterious malady. There is nothing mysterious about it. Pneu-monia and modified forms of the disease reembling very closely what is known in the United States as grip are responsible for the greater number of the deaths by which the native population has been awfully decimated. Measies has caused many fatalities. In some instances dysentery and typhoid fever have been found, and in most cases the latter disease proved fatal. The wonder is that pneumonia is not always more prevalent than it is among the Esquimaux. They take absolutely no precautions against disease, and if they become heated from violent exercise they take the most convenient and the surest means of cooling off quickly. When going from place to place to trade they pitch their tents or erect their rude shelters wherever convenience first offers a place, and they generally sleep on the ground. There is always ice within a few inches of the surface of the ground even in midsummer, and a dry spot except the Yellowstone Park, is so conspicuof earth in northern and western Alask is ous for hot springs and geysers. They burst hard to find. Rains are frequent and almost from the ground endlessly diversified in form, constantly there are cool winds. Exposure cannot be avoided without difficulty and the Esquimaux don't try to avoid it.

At St. Lawrence Island, especially at Northamong the natives this year. A short is tance from the village is a burying ground, with the usual scaffolds built of whalebone and driftwood, where the dead are laid, out of reach of the half-savage Malamute dogs. The graves have been increased since spring by perhaps twenty or thirty, and the burying ground has become so neglected that cor; ses have fallen from their resting places and have been half devoured by dogs. On the outkirts of this grim-looking cemetery the ground is covered with scattered human skulls and disjointed bones. After all, the extent of t ickness on St. Lawrence Island has been less this year than at most other places.

Forty miles west from Northwest Cape is Indian Point, Siberia. Here the natives show some slight racial differences from the American Eskimos, but they were afflicted with disease this summer just as their cousins on the Alaska side were. Sickness was found at other points along the Siberian coast, but it did not compare in fatal results with the scourge on the American side.

Contact with white men has been of little benefit to the Eskimos and this has been outweighed a hundred times by the evil effects of white men's influence. In the vicinity of Nome, the great mining camp, the condition f health among the natives was distressing. Lieut. D. H. Jarvis, United States Revenue Cutter Service, who was stationed at Nome and, overflowing, its transparent, alabasterduring the summer as a special treasury agent took measures for their relief and as a result of his efforts a native village where the Eskimos silica and sulphurous substances, became could receive proper care was established near Nome River, four miles east of the city. There were about a hundred natives in that village The commandant of the military post was directed by Brig.-Gen Randall, commanding "white and pink terraces" as they were called. the Department of Alaska, to distribute subsistence supplies among them as needed. On the coast farther north, even as far as Cape
Lisburne in the Arctic, relief supplies were
out beneath a heat of scoriac. Mr. Cadell Lisburne in the Arctic, relief supplies were out beneath a heat of scoriae. Mr Cadell brings the interesting news that here and there distributed among the destitute and sick nadistributed among the destitute and sick natives by the revenue cutter Bear, which visited these points on her regular Arctic cruise. This stription of the region in its present aspects that the phenomena of this wonderland will also be supported the same benevolent service. tives by the revenue cutter Bear, which visited vesses performed the same benevolent service on behalf of the Government at King's Island markable of nature's spectacles. S. Lawrence I-land and other places where she called. The Cape Lisburne natives were found in better condition than at places farther south, and at Point parrow, the settlement farthest north in American territory, there was no sickness at all.

Chief Surgeon R. G. Ebert, U. S. A., stationed at this point thus describes the conditions which he found in the small territory between the east shore of Norton Sound and Point Keketaunick.

"Accompanied by Father Kookarsky of the Greek Church and Mr. Windberg we started in the launch Nordica for Cape Alpalcluk, seven miles northeast of here [St. Michael] Here we found John, his wife, five boys and one girl all suffering from the epidemic influenza so rapidly fatal to the natives. A wife and one son were sying dead and un-buried in a separate tepee, a short distance surrounded by young puppies and the ballot

older dogs. Of the members of the family alive, but one, the wife, was at all able to care for herself. The father was in a precarious condition, unable to be removed to the launch, and will in all probability succumb. The oldest son, Dan, was breathing at the rate of about thirty per minute, the lungs being completely congested. The girl was in a state not much better, while the younger children, ncluding a nursing babe, were afflicted with an incessant cough. The miserably thin can-vas substitute for a tent served but poorly to protect the sick from even the slight driz-

zling mist then falling. 'Medicines and food, including condensed milk for infants and tea for older members of the family, were given to them for several days, and promises of further assistance when afatigue party to bury the dead should be sent. A half mile beyond was found a house and tent both unoccupied. The natives had died, as shown by recent graves. That the owners were among the wealthier of the natives was evidenced by the possession of two stoves, several trunks, quite a cache of drying salmon, and clothing showing at least quite a purchasing capacity by the late possessors. Two seines in which salmon and other fish were entangled, partial decomposition showing that at least a fortnight must have elapsed since last drawn, were still in water, while a third was on a rack on shore. The recent graves, the last being covered merely by a skin of a kyak [native boat] showed that the natives themselves had attended to burial. The fact that the dogs remained would indicate that no other member of the family existed.

"At Keketauntick, the village which at one me must have numbered not less than one hundred inhabitants, and at which the priests expected to find about sixty people, there were but four families, a total of nineteen or twenty ouls. Excepting one man, a boy and two half-grown girls, all were helpless. Even these were to a greater or less degree suffering from the prevailing sickness and three had died. Beyond a few fish and birds there was no food To these were given the stores directed to be distributed by me by the Department Commander, Gen. Randall. Epidemic influenza and measles are the prevalent diseases. Owing to the scarcity of food during spring and early summer the ability to resist the inroads of disease has been materially decreased in other words, partial starvation adds to the mortality. With the entire community stricken by disease all further sources of food cease so far as the efforts of themselves, the natives, are con-At King's Island, St. Lawrence Island and cerned, and those who do not die directly from the infection, which in many cases seems to terminate in acute tuberculosis, will die of natives differed only in extent. The worst starvation unless relief from Government

ources is granted "As the summer is the time when the native should lay by his winter stores and as this epidemic extends to Cape York, as I have seen by personal observation, and am reliably in formed, also down to the coast of the Kusko quim and up the Yukon for more than 200 miles it is evident that no native will remain alive by next spring unless immediate measures are taken to feed, clothe and care for these people for the next six months."

Right here in the vicinity of St. Michael the distress among the Esquimaux has been fearful but the accessibility of those natives has made partial relief promptly feasible. Of a family of seven on the beach near here all were sick and three of the number had pneumonia. None of the family was able to fish. Dr Marsh, the

post surgeon here, describes a typical case "An old man and woman and a little girl were found in one of the huts. The hut is partly under ground and has a flat sod roof. Water covers part of the floor. Everything is very damp. They have been moved now to a better house, but there is no one to care for them They lie in bed all day with no fire in the room Their only food is sugar, water and the bread issued them by the commissary. The miners and the commercial company have used all the driftwood, so that it is impossible for them to get

fuel, not even enough to cook their food." The revenue cutter Nunivak has left this port for her winter quarters in the Dall. She has on board some supplies for distribution among the suffering natives, but it will be impossible at this season to reach them all, and there is certain to be starvation among the natives throughout the Yukon country this winter.

PINK AND WHITE TERRACES.

They Are Coming Into View Again Above the

Volcanic Debris in New Zealand Mr. Henry M. Cadell, a Scotchman wh some years ago, wrote one of the best condensed accounts of our Yellowstone Park, has been visiting the volcanic zone in North Island, New Zealand, where he caught glimpses of the pink and white terraces that were buried out of sight fourteen years ago. This region is a land of wonders. No part of the world. size and chemical composition. Long before European settlers saw New Zealand, the thermal and mineral waters attracted the natives who had discovered their curative west Cape there was a good deal of suffering properties. Mr. Cadell says that some sanatoriums have now been erected here and are visited by many New Zealanders and foreigners.

Mount Tarawera, about 3,000 feet high, was

supposed to be extinct till 1886, when one winter's night it suddenly awoke. The natives who live around the shores of the beautiful lake of the same name at the foot of the volcano told Mr. Cadell that eleven days before the catastrophe they saw a spectral canoe floating in the heavens above the lake. They had never seen anything like it before and they believe the spectacle was a forewarning that some terrible event would occur. Mirages are sometimes seen in that region. The canon may have been merely a phenomenon of this sort or perhaps only a curiously shaped cloud. The explosion came with scarcely a mo ment's warning. A tremendous shock disturbed the entire region and the ash-covered summit of the volcano was blown into the air to a height of 20,000 feet, visible for 150 miles. Flaming scoriae and a deluge of ashes fell in dense showers on the surrounding distrcit Many villages were crushed beneath the weight of dry ashes or buried under heaps of mud.

Many places were buried deep under layers of velcanic dust. One of the most regrettable features of the explosion was the destruction of the "Wonder of Wonders," the famous mineral spring which filled a crater about 650 feet in circumference like margin fell in thin azure sheets from basin to basin. As it fell, the water, saturated with cooler and gradually changed color from the sapphire tints of the upper basin to turquoise blue lower down and a slightly azure shade were among the most beautiful of sights and few foreigners going to New Zealand failed t

May Be the Oldest Voter.

From the San Francisco Chroniele, SAN Diego, Oct. 31 .- In Juan Purrela of Lakeside this county can without much doubt claim to have the oldest voter in the State of California. On the Great Register he appears as 110 years of age, and though a voter, he states that he is not able to mark his own buller. He is one of the Mexican Indians who, by virtue of the treaty of Guadalure Indiago, became a citizen of the United States and accurred the right to vote by taking the choice of becoming an American citizen in preference to remaining under the protection of Mexico.

As a general thing Indians do not vote in this country, but the treaty referred to gree As a general thing Indians do not vote in is country, but the treaty referred to gave e Mexican Indians that right if they desired everyise it. There are about 130 of them in Diego. These Indians of the Lakeside ecinet make their homes along the banks the San Diego River and Boulder Creek in e mountains to the north and east of Lakeside. Hardly any of them can read or write dimost of them have to be assisted in marking e ballot.

GLUT OF WINE IN EUROPE.

NOT ENOUGH CASKS TO HOLD THIS YEAR'S BOUNTEOUS VINTAGE.

Grapes Selling at \$12 a Ton-Coopers Making Fortunes-A Full Barrel Being Traded for Two Empry Ones-But the Benefit of the Big (rop Won't Be Felt Here This Year.

Continental Europe is rejoicing this year over a phenomenal vintage. There has not been such a crop in the vineyards since 1875. In some districts the yield per acre is even greater than in that memorable year. In France some of the wine growers are actually giving away the grapes or allowing them to decay for lack of receptacles for the juice. Barrels cannot be turned out fast enough. In the Bordeaux region empty casks are selling for \$5 apiece and a full cask of new wine is being traded for two empty ones. Grapes can be bought in wo-thirds of the wine-producing departments of the Republic for \$12 a ton. In other departments the price is often below this; rarely a dollar or two more. For the first time in a quarter of a century is seen again the custom of permitting anybody to enter the curiers or press houses and drink all the new wine he or he can within a few minutes for one cent. Only the old growers remember such a yield in the wine districts. It is largely due to the more exact scientific

knowledge attained by viticulturists of measures for successfully combating the phylloxera or wine pest, against which for years the growers have been struggling bravely, sometimes almo n despair. In the worst districts the vineyards have been revitalized by grafting with American plants. In all of them improved methods of cultivation have been adopted, which mitigate extensively against the spread of the scourge. This year the season has been exceptionally favorable to maturing the grapes to perfection, and for the first time the value of the improved methods of cultivation is brought out. in backward Spain and Portugal there are few racts of vine-growing land where the im; roved methods have not been adopted, and in Germany, Austria and Hungary, where still greater energy has been mannested, the mischief cause by the vine pest is almost eradicated, with the result that the wine production of eastern Europe is larger this year than it ever was in the memory of old growers. Within five years it is confidently predicted all the vineyards of Europe will have been reconstituted, and the an era of cheap wine may be expected here the like of which has not been seen before.

The only pity about it is that we will have to wait. It will be two years anyway, so the wine importers say, before the full effect of this year's plethora is felt in this country. There will be some difference, of course, for all of the vintages of '98 and '99 that remain in the hands of the producers abroad are being cleared ou at reduced rates in view of a possible glut in the market later, but the duties and the cost of transportation, which are the chief items affecting the price of wine here, will not be affected and the difference will be insignificant In from two to five years the market will fee the full effect of this vintage.

France is the greatest wine-producing country still, though her competitors, Spain, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy, and now America and Australia, have crept closer in competition with her in the last twenty years, and it is a fact that while the annual consumption of wine under Bordeaux labels has been 6,000,000 hectolitres, or a little less than 135,-000,000 gallons, the annual production of the Bordeaux district up to this year has been less than half that amount. The vineyard acreage of France after a great decline is again on the increase, though that is not the cause of the abundance this year. As early as 1775 the French area under vines amounted to 2,000,000 acres. By 1875, a hundred years later, this had increased more than threefold. Then came the phylloxera and the long and apparently hopeless struggle against the blight, and at the present time the acreage amounts to less than four and a half millions. That the production of wine in France this year is at least equal to that of 1875, a memorable year of abundance to European wine growers, shows how remarkably the fertility of the vines has been increased. When the whole of France has been replanted a sufficient length of time allow the full effect of revitalization of the ineyards to be felt the production is likely be phenomenal annually and wine will be rought more closely into competition with

At the present time the popular wine almost he world over, according to the latest statistics is claret, and it is in claret that the abundance is greatest this year. On the estate of Chateau Loudenne alone this year's yield is 1,500 hogsheads or 75,000 gallons, which is nearly half a million bottles. This production from one estate alone gives some idea of the remarkable fecundity of the vines this year. In the Medoc district the yield is so great that the curiers are wholly insufficient to handle the grapes. It is curious to note in the claret districts how at last new methods have invaded even the making of red wine, for centuries the most conservative of industries. For ages there has been till now only the one method, transmitted from father to son, generation after generation. It was that of the wine pres of antiquity, the treading out of the juice of the grapes with the naked human foot. The Juice thus trodden out in the press ran into the vat into which skins and stalks were afterward

thrown for the whole to ferment together. That is all changed now in the more modern wine chatcaus of France The grapes as they are brought from the vineyard in bullock carts are hoisted by cranes in the great tubs which contain them to an upper floor of the vat house The pressoirs-shaped like vast trays-are run along on rails to receive their loads of grapes. They are then run back in front of one or other of the vats, each containing abou fifty hogsheads, pace being kept with the vintagers out of doors, the number of whom can thus be greatly increased. In the vats the grapes, instead of being trodden, are non kept as whole as possible and are left to break up under the action of fermentation. The fruit is separated from the stalks by means of rakes and the stalks are not put into the vat The men who separate the grapes from the stalks enter the press barefooted as of old, but they do not tread the fruit. The separation of fruit and stalks, the wine growers who have adopted the new method say, gives to the wine a "softness" unknown under the old system. They haven't the argument all their own way however. Many of the growers cling to the old style of wine making. They maintain that nothing has ever been invented that equals the pressure of the human foot in wine making and nothing ever will be. It brings the color out of the grape skins, they maintain, which adds to the beauty of the wine and also extracts the tannin, which is preservative. Only time and experience will decide whether the old method or the new is really the best, though on the point of leaving the stalks out of the "must" in process of fermentation many of the

ld-fashioned wine makers are yielding. All that falls to the bottom of the vat when fermentation is complete is pressed in a special machine made for the purpose. The liquor resulting is not mixed with that which has already been drawn off, however. The latter makes the grand rin. That extracted by the later process is sold cheaply and is used in the manufacture of inferior stuff

In the Burgundy districts this year the yield is only second to that in the claret districts, especially from the red grapes, but the wine growers complain that the wine will not posses the full body of the last two vintages. In the sparkling wines of Saumur there has been an equally bountiful vintage Port, the importers say, is growing in favor, and in Portugal this year there is a crop which is likely in the near future to eclipse and to increase the demand for that generous red wine Sherry is less popular than it was, according to the same authorities, and there are large accumulations in Jerez which when they are released are likely to overstock the market. Madeira and Marsala are sharing the fate of sherry, though efforts are being made to tempt consumers by shipping the best wines at low prices. In Hungary and Austria, while

drought and heat have reduced the prospects of a phenomenal vintage unexpectedly, large uantities of wine have still been made

Curiously enough, though the yield in the champagne country this year is far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine producers and the quality is said to be especially fine, no one here expects any notable reduction in the price of that wine. For one reason it will be four or five years before the vintage is marketable, and many things may happen in the meantime. A poor vintage next year or the year afterward would serve to bolster up prices by the time the wine is ready for market The stocks of the '92 and '93 vintages are almost gone, but a demand, which in this country at

least seems to grow, is mainined. England is likely to feel the benefit of this year of plethora in the vineyards first. The demand for cheap wines is increasing there and there is a strong movement on foot to reduce the import duties. It is argued by the importers that a great stride could be made in the cause of temperance if the Government, by a master stroke of policy, would only reduce the duty on light wines of low alcoholic strength to something nearer the tax on beer-which in England is by no means a beverage of low alcoholic strength-and that in addition the British revenue would be greatly increased, because there would be a constantly increasing demand for the cheaper varieties of light wine from an ever growing class to which such wine is a necessity Whether the Government will take the opportunity so persuasively put before it remains to

be seen One effect of the great vintage in Continental Europe has been a great revival in the brandy industry, particularly in Cognac. This is regarded as the surest evidence of the bountifulness of nature at this grape harvest, since for one hogshead of brandy eight hogsheads of wine must be "burned," as it is called, for distillation into spirit. The vines of Charentes however, never bore so heavily as this car, and it is predicted that in consequence in a few years genuine, grand champagne brand made from the pure juice of the grape will be as plentiful and as moderate in price as it was a quarter of a century ago

WANDERINGS OF A JAPANESE.

The Romantic Story of a Young Man Whose Career Was Shaped by a Shipwreck.

A while ago Mr. J. Heco of Tokio published n account of some of his adventures and experiences. A Stuttgart publisher discovered the interesting little volume, translated t and has published it in Germany under the title in German of "Recollections of a Japanese. Heco's life appears to have had an unusually large element of romance, and his story is we worth telling.

In 1850, when he was 13 years old, he went o sea on a Japanese junk bound for Yeddo The little bark was driven by storms out into the Pacific Ocean: its rigging was completely wept away by the violence of successive gale and finally the boat lay adrift several hundred miles from land without means of propulsion and at the mercy of the winds and currents Thus the hapless crew drifted around for several weeks until an American bark came in sight and the seventeen Japanese sailors whose friends at home believed they had per ished in the storms, were taken to San Francisco. This was before Japan had entered into intimate relations with other nations and the castaways thus thrown upon a foreign shore, of which most of them had never heard were great objects of curjosity in the young and thriving mining port of San Francisco.

In those days no American vessels plied o Japan, and the poor stranded sailors did not know whether they would ever be able to get home. Finally young Heco, who had been picking up a meagre living in San Francisco for two years, had an opportunity to sail on an American warship to Hong Kong, where he intended to watch his chance to secure passage for Japan

Arriving in Hong Kong he waited long for vessel to take him home. At last it seemed o him that the opportunity would never come and so he sailed back to San Francisco. Her he worked now as a household servant, and then as a sailor on coasting vessels.

One day he met a kind gentlemen who was much interested in his story and became his friend and patron. He took the boy with him by the Panama route around to Baltimore, where he placed him in school Later the gentleman returned to San Francisco to live, taking Heco with him and the boy completed education in that town. By this time he was a fair English scholar and had an excellent knowledge of the language.

Then he entered a commercial house in San Francisco. His brightness was appreciated and he acquired a good knowledge of business. Every day, however, he longed to return to Japan and see whether his parents and other friends were yet alive. Fortune favored him at last and he secured the posiion of secretary to the captain of a United States surveying vessel that had been ordered to Asiatic waters. He did not know whether he would be able to reach the coast of Japan after all, but when he arrived at Honolulu he heard the great news that in a few months Japan was to be opened to foreign commerce So at last he saw his native land again when 21 years old, eight years after he had started on what he expected to be a short journey; but it had carried him beyond all knowledge of his parents and friends.

Heco went home a naturalized American citizen and in the following year he obtained a position in the United States Consulate at Yokohama. Having a capital of a few hundred dollars he soon decided to go into business in a small way as a merchant. In those early days of Japan's intercourse with foreign nations many of the people were not favorably disposed toward men of their own blood who had lived abroad. Heco even came to believe that his life was in danger from the part of th population that viewed the admission of forigners unfavorably. They chose to regard him as more objectionable than a foreigner because he had lived so long abroad, could talk English and had acquired many foreign ideas and habits. So he felt compelled at las

talk English and had acquired many foreign ideas and habits. So he felt compelled at last to give up trade on his own account and took up the occupation of an interpreter.

Since those days Heco has engaged in various pursuits and on the whole has been successful and is now a very well-to-do citizen of his native country. He has always helped in every possible way to inspire his people with faith in the advantages of western methods of development. His fortunes were long precarious because he was determined to act on lines of progress peculiar to western civilization and the Japanese were very slow, in the first few years, to embrace and assimilate such ideas. He had, for example, a sorry experience as the editor of the first Japanese newspaper in the wortern meaning of the word. The paper never had more than a few score native subscribers and when it died, very young, for lack of sustenance, it had only two reguar native purchasers to mour its loss.

The fate that carried Heco to America recalls the curious records of involuntary voyages made by natives of Asia to the islands of the sea which were collected and published some years ago by Mr. Otto Situs. Thus the Bonin Islands were discovered in 1675 by the crew of a wrecked Japanese junk. Other involuntary voyages from China and Japanese influence there and go to show the close relationship of the occasic world to Asia. In 1832 a Japanese junk came ashore at Oahu, on which Honolulu stands. The nine sanors on the Junk had been driven from their course and drifted for eleven months, but were still fairly vigorous. "Now it is plain," said the Hawaiians, "when they saw the brown castaways, "that we came from Asia."

From the Youth a Companion An old bookkeeper declares that it is surpris-An old bookkeeper declares that it is surprising to see how may y valuable things a man can buy f he simply ec nomizes in fittle things.

"I ence nade up my mind I would become the possessor of a go d gold watch. I say dup the money or it in this way; When I felt like eating a fifty-cent luncheon, as I often d.d. I ate a twent-live cent one instead, and put the other quarter aside for my waich fund. You will hardly believe it, but in less than it most had aved money enough to purchase the watch."

had aved money enough to purchase the watch."

"But you don't seem to have purchased it," said his friend, observing that there were no outward s.cn. of such a purchase.

"Well, no. When I found how easily I could get along without fifty-cent lun-hes I concluded I could get along just as easily without the gold watch, and the watch fund is growing into a house and lot fund now."

POPULARITY OF THE BIBLE.

ENGLISH STATISTICS SHOW THAT IT HAS NOT DECLINED.

Over 5.000,000 Copies Issued by the British and Foreign Hible Society in Twelve Months-Queen Wilhelmina in Paris to Buy Her Trousseau-England's Usury Laws. LONDON, Oct. 27. Statistics issued this week show a vast increase in the circulation of the Bible. It has been stated that the opposite is the case in the United States, where publishers and booksellers are cited as having

said "there is no money in the Scriptures A talk with Mr. Henry Frowde of the Oxford University Press corrects this statement very materially. He says it is true that the business of some American publishers has been largely reduced, but this is not the result of any falling off in the popularity of the Bible in America. The explanation given is that new and more economical machinery has been introduced by other publishers of the Bible. Never was there, he says, such a demand for Bibles as at present; three times as many Oxford Bibles have been sold as in any previous year. The British and Foreign Bible Society, which prints the Scriptures in 400 languages, representing the spe seven-tenths of the world, issued in the twelve months ending with last March 5,047,000 copies of the Bible -a bulk absolutely without precedent and considerably more than half a million in access of the corresponding period previously. Of that huge mass, over 30 per cent. or 1,521,000 copies are in English. In themselves those figures are sufficiently

significant, but even more striking is the record privately compiled, and not yet published, of the growth during the last decade. In 1889-00 the number of complete English Bibles sent out was 534,980. Each year showed a consistent, steady rise up to last year, when it was 618,215. Ten years ago the New Testan ents were 50%,613, and last year 614.719, the intervering figures having son evhat fuctuated with a general tendency to increase. Of portions of the Scriptures, such as the Psalms or the Gospels, 25,000 were issued in 1889-60, and last year they numbered 467,482, not a little of that great increase being due to the fact that 126,000 cories distributed to the troops as they these shores for South Africa The penny new English Testament is sold at less than cost price. Since it was first brought out in 1894 over 7,000,000 copies have been issued at a loss of \$25,000, as it cannot possibly be produced at its selling price. At the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses which together with the Queen's Frinters, alone have the right of printing the Bible in this country, the finest typography, the choicest

in the demand for sumptuous copies. Mr. Frowde says that the total annual output of Oxford Bibles for some years past has been upward of a million copies, and even before here was an American branch of the Oxford University Press the weekly shipment of Bibles to the United States often exceeded five tons in weight. The Americans take the keenes interest in Bibles and Biblical matters, as was shown very clearly at the time of the publication of the revised Testaments. Not only the authorized Bible holds its own, but the revised version is slowly but steadily increasing in popularity.

paper, and most artistic of bindings are re-

quisitioned for the sacred volume, and ther

s not the slightest diminution to be observed

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and her mother have gone to Paris to select the royal rousseau. The Queen's wedding is fixed for Jan 17. It is her wish to be married at the new church of Amsterdam, where she was invested with her Constitutional sovereignty. But an article of the Civil Code must be changed to enable her to do so. The article provides that one member of every couple desiring to be married must reside for some months previously in the parish where the marriage is to take place. This prevents a royal wedding at Amsterdam, where she has never resided. A wedding at the new church would enable her to invite a far greater number of her subjects than if the marriage took place at The Hague or Loo. Dutch jurists point out that the future Prince Consort will not have the slightest scope for political influence, nor any excuse for using it. The Queen represents the history of her house, nothing more. She is re-vered as the descendant of those Princes of Orange who wrested the Netherlands from and enabled them to withstand Louis XIV. But her power to govern is far more limited than that of the Queen of England. The Prince Consort may share his Queen's popularity by being a good husband and a patriot. He has no place in the Constitution A recent visitor to The Hague who was presented to the Prince says he rather liked him His face reddens easily, and feeling himself the observed of all observers, his manner is shy But he was quite at home when driving. The Queen in her phaeton and four looked pleased and proud at finding herself beside him. He bears a high reputation in the German Army.

The usury laws dating back for eight centuries of English history, which were finally repealed In 1854, are revived in a form chosen to meet the ways of living of the present day by the Money Lenders' ct of 1900. Their abolition was contemporaneous with the absolute supremacy of the laissez faire school of political economists who thought all interference of the State with the individual was essentially wrong except from physical violence or gross fraud. They would not have the law interfere in any way between the parties to a civil contract. These thinkers, who included Blackstone Adam Smith and Bentham, held that the then existing usury laws were based on an erroneous interpretation of a Jewish law which was purely local and political with no moral sanction attached. It is a fact that in the earliest English law it was an offence for any Christian to take any kind of usury, and was the spiritual courte which dealt with this kind of offence. Usury at common law was only practised by the Jews, and very early Jewish usury of 40 per cent. and more was prohibited at law. In the long history of the usury laws practically all the enactment bore upon the scale of interest permitted. Eight years ago a Betting and Loans (Infants) Act made it a misdemeanor to send to persons whom the sender knows to be infants circulars inviting the infant to borrow money. By the act of this year this provision is made effective by the enactment that the sender shall be deemed to have known that the person to whom the document was sent was an infant unless he proves that he had reasonable grounds to believe the contrary. The new act is most important as placing the whole system of money lending as a trade on a new basis. By section 6 the expression "money lender

includes "every person whose business is that of money-lending, or who advertises or announces himself or holds himself out in any way as carrying on that business." It does not include statutory pawnbrokers, or certain registered friendly societies, benefit building societies, loan societies, or building societies under certain acts; or bodies corporate empowered to lend money in accordance with a special act of Parliament; or bona fide banking or insurance businesses, or other bona fide businesses that lend money, but do not exist for that purpose. Great pains are taken to prevent money lenders from transacting business in other than their own names. It is notorious that flagrantly extertionate usurers have been doing business all over the country

nder hundreds of different attractive aliases. But now a money leader must register himself at the proper office, "under his own or usual trade name, and in no other name, and with the address, or all the addresses, if more than one, at which he carries on his business of money lender." He must "carry on the money-lending business in his registered name, and in no other name and under no other description, and at his registered address or addresses, and at no other address," he may enter into no agreement with respect to the advancement and repayment of money or take any security as a money lender otherwise than in his registered name; and he must, on reasonable request and on tender of

a reasonable sum for expenses, supply a corrower with a copy of any document relating to the loan or any security therefor If the money lender fails to comply with this section he shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £100, and in the case of subsequent convictions to imprisonment for three months, or to a fine not exceeding £100, or to both, or, if the offender is a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding £500. If any money lender or his agent induces, or attempts to induce, any person to borrow or to agree to terms of borrowing, by means of false statements and representations, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable on conviction to imprisonment for two years, or to fine not exceeding £500, or to both.

An interesting portion of this important act

is the long first section, which deals with the reopening by the court of a money lender's transactions. It must be remembered that though the Usury laws have been repealed, yet the Court of Chancery has by judicial decisions given its protection to many of those who were rightly protected by the Usury acts. For instance, in 1877 Lord Hatherley, in the case of O'Rorke vs. Bollingbroke," held that "in the case of the 'expectant heir' or of persons under pressure without adequate protection, and in the case of dealings with unclucated, ignorant persons, the burden of showing the fairness of the transaction is thrown on the person who seeks to obtain the benefit of the contract. This principle is now extended and made statutory. The act provides that in the case of an action by a money lender where the Court is satisfied that the interest charged is excessive or that the expenses of the transaction are excessive, or that it is a case where a court of equity would give relief, the court may reopen the transaction and may take an account between the money lender and the person sued, despite any apparently closed settlement, and may relieve the person sued from any payment in excess of the sum considered by the court fairly due in respect to principal, interest and charges, a: d may set aside or alter any security given or agreement made in respect of money lent. The court, moreover, may do the same at the instance and on the application of the borrower, although no action has been brought and the date of repayment has not arrived. The court has also the same powers on any application relating to the admission or the amount of a proof by a money lender in any bankruptcy proceedings

This act is so well drawn that it would appear impossible for the fraud lent money lender to evade its provisions. But we shall see, after it has come into force on the first day of next month, whether, in the words of Sir Edward Coke, written two hundred and fifty years ago, "they that seeke by sleight to creepe out of these statutes, will deceive themselves and repent in the end.

TOLD BY THE OLD CIRCUS MAN. The Greatest of All Giants Plays the Bass Horn in the Band.

"For my part," said the old circus man, "I like the big bass horn: I never tire of listening to it. If I'm around anywhere where there's a band playing in some public place, for instance like a park, or maybe in some stand built up in the street for a political meeting, I always get around by the bass horn man. I never tire of listening to the man that juggles the thunder, and I like to see him play. But what set out to tell you about was, not how much I like the big bass horn myself, but how about the greatest of all giants used to play it, in our band in the circus

"In the street parades that we always gave when we struck a town the band, before we got the giant, used to ride in a band wagon. We had as gorgeous a band wagon as ever rolled, but when the old man decided to play he giant in the band he housed the band wagon for the season, without the slightest hesitation; for the season, without the singulest nestration, he knew well enough that the great giant would look a heap sight bigger standing up at his full height and marching along on foot with the band than he would half lost, as he would be, sitting doubled up in the band wagon, to say nothing of his being nixed up there, too, with all the hand wagon's limerackery. So, that year he band wagon's jimerackery. So that year he band walked in the parades; and the giant

arched in the ranks.

"The giant's place was at the left-hand end
the rear rank. I have never yet told you,
feet and inches, just how tall the giant was. ecause you simply wouldn't believe it and if ou didn't believe that you wouldn't believe hind the self-even wouldn't believe hat there at the corner of the band forma-on he rose up above all the rest of the men like a tower rising up at the corner of some square, one-story building. It was enormously more impressive than any sort of arrangement that could possibly have been made ment that could possibly have been made with the giant in the band wagon. But keen and clear-headed as the old man was in all this, he made at the outset one big mistake. The old man's idea in this was that the contrast between the great man and a slender instrument like a clarinet would be funny. And it certainly was funny to see the great giant playing a clarinet, but at the same time it came mighty near to being ridiculous. Of course we provided him with an instrument of suitable size to be in proper proportions to the player; we had a clarinet made for him, about ten, or ten and a half feet long. But, if anything, this only made it worse. You see the whole business was foolishness; it wasn't the thing. What the giant really wanted was some big, massive instrument that should be in keeping with him himself. There was nobody realized all this any quicker than the old man did, and at the very first glimmering of it in his mind he put in an order for a suitable sized bass horn for the giant.

"It was a month before we got it—you see even with unlimited money back of the order they had to make new shapes to bend and form the various parts of the horn on, and the work took time, but we got it finally. I remember its coming well. It was packed in three hogsheads, joined together lengthwise and with all the heads knocked out except the end ones. It was about fourteen feet high and of corresponding dimensions throughout; fit horn for the clayer.

"And could the giant play it? To the limit, like a tower rising up at the corner of so

spending dimensions throughout; lit form for the player.

"And could the giant play it? To the limit, as horn was never played before. When I hear the jovial thunder of some bass horn player now I hear the thunderous echo of the

HEAVY TRUCKING.

How the Loads Drawn by Fifty-Horse Teams Are Put on the Truck.

"The passing of a great thirty, forty, fifty horse team, hauling a ponderous load of fifty seventy-five or more tons, a great spool of wire cable, for instance," said a man engaged in the business of heavy trucking, "interests everybody that sees it; no doubt people would all be interested just the same in the preliminary handling of the big spool, including the loading of it on the truck on which they see it hauled, all th t part of the work being done on just the same broad and lofty scale.

"The cable comes from Trenton. At the

"The cable comes from Trenton. At the mill there the great reel of wire, when all ready to ship, is swung with a crane onto a car expressly built to carry such reels. Arrived at Jersey City this car is switched to the water's edge, where it is met by a floating derrick from this city, which lifts the reel off the car and swings it around and lowers it upon its own deck. Then the floating derrick with the reel aboard is towed over to this side of the river, where it is to meet the truck. "The bic truck alone, steel throughout, and with broad-faced steel wheels, weighs ten tons, with its load it may weigh anywhere from fifty to ninety tons. Not every wharf, by any means, would bear up that load within the comparatively small space of the truck's wheel base, or hold up such a load in motion on it so we take this load aboard, when we can, at a builkhead, where the truck can stand close to the water's edge and still on solid ground. The floating derrick with the load on its deck is brought alongside the bulkhead and the load is picked up again and swung this time around over the shore and lowered onto the platform of the truck. "That's the way they load a heavy platform truck. The manner of loading a high-wheeled swing truck, on which the great load is carried suspended in chains from long beams blocked up high above the axless is quite different. This load in this case would be deposited not on the truck, but on the ground, and the truck would be manouvred over it. When they had got the chains under it, the great team soon to be engaged in hauling the load would be hondowed onto a block and tackle properly rigged for the purpose and the load hoisted clear of the ground and to the height at which it was to be carried in the chain swings. Then the team would be brought around again to where it belonged to pull the load." where it belonged to pull the load

THE REAL ESTATE BOARD OF BROKERS are using THE SUN as an official authority on all matters appertaining to Real Estate. A more comprehen we and detailed form of general news in ormation is not to be found in any other publication.—Adv.

TO SEARCH FOR THE POLE

duct It, and He Plans to Follow a Course

CANADIAN EXPEDITION THAT WILL START NORTH NEXT JUNE. Capt. Bernier, a Veteran Navigator, Will Con-

Similar to Nansen's-Innovations Upon Which He Relies in Part for Success. QUEBEC, Nov. 9 .- The first distinctively Canadian expedition in search of the North Pole will probably set out for the Arctics next year. It will be commanded by Capt. Bernier. an old-time navigator, than whom no Arctie explorer was ever more confident of achieving his self-imposed task, The captain's plan includes several novel propositions for facilitating his reach of the desired goal. A seafaring man from his youth and a capta n of many years' experience and of wonderful success in hi- vocation, the study of the great problem of Arctic exploration has been the hobby of his life. He is of French-Canadian extraction, and confident of his ability to plant the flag of the Empire and the arms of his native country upon the exact end of the world's imaginary axis. The captain has promise of generous Canadian aid for his expedition, and has gone to England to interview Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society, on the project, and also to make arrangements for the construction of a new ship. It will be decided in England whether this vessel is to be of wood or malleable steel: that is, the Siemens-Martin mild

The experience of Nansen's Fram makes the captain rather unfavorable to a wooden ship, because of the fears that that vessel engendered among her crew when in the ice floes. His preference is for a steel ship the sides of which can be so heated from within that she will avoid the evil effects of ice pressure, and being shaped like the Fram will read ily rise from the pressure of opposing ice floca. Capt. Bernier estimates the total cost of the expedition at from \$50,000 to \$90,000, of which \$15,000 to \$50,000 will be required for the vessel and its outfit. He gives his own services free.

Sir Clements Markham has already declared that another expedition ought to continue Nansen's work, taking the drifting ice further to the east than he did, in which case he believes it would float over or nearly over the pole. Bernier does not share the belief of ome that there is any extent of land in the neighborhood of the pole, that would interfere with the regular drift of the Arctic ice. He declares it unreasonable to believe that there is other than deep water in the vicinity of the pole, when 300 miles south of it in the direction of Greenland, the depth of water is from 1,800 to 2,000 fathoms.

Capt. Bernier proposes to set out on his voyige about June 1, leaving Vancouver for Behring Straits, accompanied by a crew of twelve, all possessed of special scientific attainments. The coast of Siberia will be followed as far as the new Siberian islands, the expedition passing to the west of them to survey Sannikof Land and to finish the survey of North Bennett Island commenced by the Jeannette's crew. There the opportunity will be watched for in the late period of navigation. o proceed to the north of the Jeannette's Arctic position through one of the northeasterly openings in the ice that are always found to exist about October. The winter quarters of the ship will be about 500 miles from the pole. Here the explorers will slaughter the live stock brought with them for food and store the flesh in a depot on the ice alongside of the ship. against the time when there will be nothing to kill around them. In the latitude where the first winter will be passed, the explorers expect to kill large quantities of bear, seal and walrus, not only for current use but also to add

to their reserve stores.

All this time the captain expects to be grade nally nearing the pole, carried toward it by the drift of the ice in which his vessel and attendant camps will be imbedded, or upon the surface of which they will be borne. gradual is the drift and so slow will be the progress of the party that they only expect o reach the pole during the third summer of their absence from home. It may not be possible for the expedition to take the drift ice far enough to the east to be sure of passing directly over the pole, because of the westerly drift. In order to counteract this, however, series of observation stations will be established on the ice, ten miles apart, and stretching away due east of the main camp. These of servation camps will constitute one of the main features of the expedition. Not only will they be sighted from one another, but they will be connected by telephonic communication, supplemented by a system of wireless telegraphy. The flagstaffs of these stations will be composed of hollow aluminum pipes, two to three inches in diameter, containing emergency supplies of food. These pipes will be eighteen feet high. Each station will be supplied with self registering thermometer and barometer, Five of them at least are to be established. and if this eastward extension of communication for fifty miles is found, by observation to be sufficient for overcoming the westward drift, the number and extension of these observation stations can readily be increased, so that the passage of at least a portion of the party, immediately over the pole may be definitely accomplished.

Small balloons with records of the expediion's progress will be released at monthly or fortnightly intervals, and each succeeding balloon will contain the record entrusted to former ones, to provide against the loss of any. Each will be furnished with twenty days' supply of hydrogen. To avoid evaporation they will be so freighted as to be imprisoned in the cold air near the surface of the sea, and Capt, Bernier is convinced that the prevailing currents of air will carry them first to the south and then east Boats for use in cases of emergency will be

taken out in sections. The expedition expects to return by way of Spitzbergen. Judging by the facts that the polar basin has a higher level than either the Pacific or the Atlantic ocean, that the latter is lower than the Pacific, and that the cold winds of the polar basin help the ice and water thence on the way to the North Atlantic to feed the evaporation always going on there, Capt. Bernier believes it now to be nothing more than a matter of time and patience until he shall have passed directly over the pole and returned safely home to tell the story of the expedition. At first his only anxiety was as to the possibility of reaching the mouth of the river Lena from Behring Straits. Dr. Nansen writes him that he has no doubts that he can easily do so. Prof. Nordenskrold, who reached the polar sea via Behring Straits from Stockholm, also writer

encouragingly. The Royal Society of Canada and the Quebec Geographical Society have indorsed Capt Bernier's plans. So has a W. Tyrrell, the explorer of the barren lands and the chairman of the Committee on Polar Researches of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association, who says, "I believe you are on the right track to success "Dr G M Pawson, director or the Geological Survey of Canada, writes: "The recent voyage of the Fram seems to indicate that an expedition carried out along the line of Capt. Bernier's project, if properly equipped and manned, would have every probability of a successful issue "And Dr Bell, the assistant Lirector-General of Dominion Surveys, supplements the above with the following: "I think you have chosen the best course and the best method, and that if you follow out these plans you will succeed." Geographical Society have indorsed Capt

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

A baby whale, two and a haif feet in length, was washed ashore in the breakers a few miles couth of the Cliff House last Sunday afternoon, and was immediately picked up by C. Baker, S. Roberts and George Whistler, who were walking on the beach. The little whale was lively and in sound condition, apparently, except for a slight bruise on the side of his head, and in half an hour the young men had him in a receptacle filled with salt water. The little fellow was brought to the city, and thrived so well that yesterday, to the anazement of his capitors, be had grown to a length of nearly four feet. He is one of the bine species, and blows vigorously most of the time he is thrashing around in his tank. Scafaring men who looked upon the little whale yesterday said they had never seen so diminutive a specimen of his species before, but that he was nevertheless a whale. His tail is shapely and is already avoided by the young men who have taken a upon themselves to raise the embryo leviather. From the San Francisco Chronicle.